



February 2015

MABE Calendar

February 2015

Feb. 24 - [Boardsmanship Academy](#), State Board Meeting, Baltimore, MD

Feb. 25 - MABE [Board of Directors](#) Meeting

March 2015

March 2 - [Legislative Committee](#) Meeting

March 6 - MABE Ad Hoc Committee on [Education Funding Adequacy](#) Meeting

March 13 - Boardsmanship Academy - The Law & Student Athletics: What Board Members Need to Know

March 16 - Legislative Committee Meeting

March 20-23 - National School Boards Association ([NSBA Conference](#)), Nashville, TN

March 24 - [State Board Meeting](#), Baltimore, MD

(For a complete calendar with details, please visit the [MABE website](#).)

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As usual, Maryland winters are unpredictable! I hope this finds each of you braving the arctic blast and successfully navigating your way through school delays, closings, and budget season.

Earlier this month, at the invitation of Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) President Betty Weller, I joined House Speaker Michael Busch, House Appropriations Chairwoman Maggie McIntosh, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Chairwoman Joan Carter Conway, Montgomery County Senate Delegation Chair Nancy King, and other legislative leaders and education advocates for an MSEA press conference, calling for the reversal of Gov. Hogan's \$144 million in school funding cuts. This event also introduced MSEA's website [Don't Shortchange Maryland](#).

As I stated at the press conference, the statewide impact of these cuts would be devastating. By slashing more than \$144 million in public school funding, the Governor's budget would stall statewide progress to prepare our more than 860,000 students for success in college and career.

By now, I'm sure each of you is well aware of the [impact of these cuts](#) to your individual school systems - your classrooms, your staff, and ultimately, your students. I strongly urge you to contact your [legislators](#), advising them of your opposition to the cuts and sharing how your students will be impacted.

At MABE, we are doing our very best to keep you up-to-date and informed on these budget issues, along with proposed legislation such as the [post-Labor Day start](#) mandate and the Public Charter School Expansion & Improvement Act. Please look for MABE's [GreenSheet](#) Legislative Update, Call-to-Action notices, and news releases in your email inbox, and take action as needed.

I truly believe that our strong, collective voice can make a difference and enable us to continue the progress we have made in providing our students the education they deserve.

My best -

Jeana

Verjeana Jacobs, MABE President

Legislative Luncheon Draws 200+ Attendees

MABE's Annual Legislative Day Luncheon, held on January 29th, was a great success, thanks to the participation of House and Senate legislative leaders, and board members and superintendents from across the state, coming together to share insights and opinions on the state budget and other issues pending in Annapolis.

This year, MABE wants to especially thank Senator Addie Eckardt for her sponsorship of the event, providing MABE the opportunity to gather and meet with legislators in the Senate's conference center. ([more](#))

[Legislative Luncheon Photos](#)

Legislative Resources

Looking for the latest news on the 2015 Legislative Session? Look no further than MABE's [GreenSheet Legislative Update](#). If you are not receiving this via email on a regular basis, please contact Sandi Barry, sbarry@mabe.org, to be added to the mailing list.

MABE Welcomes New Conference Coordinator

After 15 years of including Conference Coordinator in her duties, Director of Board Development Kitty Blumsack has "retired" that item from her job description. Fortunately, Kitty will continue to provide field services to our boards and board members, and coordinate and conduct the Boardmanship Academy and Leadership Programs.

We are pleased to announce that effective immediately, Antoinette Kellaheer will be working with MABE as our Conference Coordinator for 2015. Antoinette's vast and rich experience includes, among other things, serving as the Director of Professional Learning for Prince George's County Public Schools for 38 years. Additionally, she also has been involved in planning, developing and coordinating various education conferences at the local, state and national levels, including the Learning Forward Annual Conference, CEASOM's Common Ground Conference, and various conferences within the Prince George's school system.

Executive Director Frances Hughes Glendening shared, "Antoinette is enthusiastic, passionate, and hard working when it comes to expanding professional learning opportunities in education. The Conference Planning Committee and the MABE staff look forward to working with her."

Antoinette has hit the ground running by joining Conference Planning co-chairs Tracy McGuire and Carolyn Boston and committee members for their first meeting this month.

Record Number of Attendees at New Board Member Orientation

A record number of new school board members attended MABE's New Board Member Orientation in December. Facilitated and presented by Kitty Blumsack, Director of Board Development, members came away with an understanding of the basics of school board governance and leadership, the board's legal role, and the budget process.

In addition, attendees engaged in a dialogue with Maryland State Superintendent of School Lillian Lowery, and participated in a panel Q&A with former school board members Frank Aquino (Howard), Barbara Shreeve (Charles),

and Victoria Goldsborough (Caroline).

Other presenters included MABE's Director of Legal & Policy Services Steve Bounds, and Director of Governmental Relations John Woolums, along with Milton Nagel, Caroline County Public Schools Interim Superintendent, and Eric Schwartz, Staff Attorney for Charles County Public Schools.

When asked if the orientation met their expectations, attendees responded:

"I had no expectations but was thrilled to meet 'rookies' like me, and felt reassured to know that MABE has our backs."

"So many questions have been answered, even questions I didn't know I had. Great to meet other new BOE members."

"I was informed by BOE members that this training was worth the time, and they were right. This was very helpful in beginning to develop at board perspective on education. The reading material really aligned with the material presented."

"I'm situated at the top of an iceberg. So much to learn before my bottom freezes. I need to keep moving!"

[2014 New Board Member Orientation Photos](#)

MABE Book Club

One of the key components of MABE's Leadership II program is the popular MABE Book Club. Just as the title implies, participants are assigned a book to read along with some homework, and then come together for a group discussion.

The current group's assigned reading was *A More Beautiful Question: The Power of Inquiry to Spark Breakthrough Ideas* by Warren Berger. According to [Amazon](#):

In this groundbreaking book, journalist and innovation expert Warren Berger shows that one of the most powerful forces for igniting change in business and in our daily lives is a simple, under-appreciated tool-one that has been available to us since childhood. Questioning-deeply, imaginatively, "beautifully"-can help us identify and solve problems, come up with game-changing ideas, and pursue fresh opportunities. So why are we often reluctant to ask "Why?" ([more](#))

For the most part, Book Club reviewers gave the book two thumbs up. In his report, participant Tolbert Rowe reflected:

"It seems that somewhere along life's path, we become comfortable in not questioning because we are either too busy to probe deeper, or too concerned that our question will somehow reflect our stupidity. But in reality, we are responsible, as board members, as employees or employers, and as engaged citizens, to ask probing questions."

Complete [member reviews](#) can be found on the [Book Club page](#) of the MABE website.

[Book Club Photos](#)

Upcoming Boardmanship Academy Workshops

Understanding the Work of the State Board

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 - 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This session is designed to give board members a greater understanding of the State Board, how it operates, and the type of decisions it makes. From 8:30 until noon, participants will observe the State Board of Education during its

monthly meeting, and then have an opportunity to debrief over lunch with John Woolums, MABE's Director of Governmental Relations.

Location: Maryland State Department of Education, Baltimore, MD
200 West Baltimore Street, Conference Room 8, 8th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland

The Law & Student Athletics: What Board Members Need to Know

In this session, board members will gain an understanding of the many legal and policy issues surrounding school sports. Topics will include concussion, parental notification, hazing, gender identity, Title IX and other discrimination statutes. We will also cover constitutional issues such as prayer and social media.

[Registration Form](#)

For more information, please contact Kathy Bennett, kbennett@mabe.org.

Upcoming 2015 Legal Services Association (LSA) Seminars

The following schedule has been set for 2015 LSA Seminars. Designed primarily for school system staff, LSA seminars provide in-depth information to specific groups. They are also of benefit to board members desiring a deeper understanding of the topic covered.

Feb. 27 - [Sports Have Rules: Learn the Laws that Rule Sports](#)

(Note: This topic will be covered in a March Boardsmanship Academy designed for board members.)

Mar. 30 - A Day in the Life of a Pupil Personnel Worker

Apr. 16 - A Day in the Life of a Principal

Apr. 27 - A Day in the Life of a School Counselor

June 1 - Annual Special Education Update

All LSA Seminars will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) in the board room at the [Anne Arundel County Board of Education](#), 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis.

[Registration form](#) for all seminars

For more information about LSA, please visit the [MABE website](#).

Join Us for MABE's Reception at NSBA's Annual Conference

The Nationals School Board Association Conference is just around the corner, March 21-23. MABE officers will be in Nashville to represent Maryland at the NSBA Delegate Assembly and other events, and MABE staff will be there presenting several workshops. Kick off your conference experience by joining us for our annual reception. We look forward to seeing you!

[NSBA Conference website](#)



Many thanks to our sponsors whose support makes this event possible:



Current Issue of [American School Board Journal](#)

Testing the Common Core - Del Stover

For a brief period last August, the school board of Florida's Lee County was at the forefront of growing national resistance to the new tests being developed to align with the Common Core State Standards. By a 3-to-2 vote, the board agreed to opt out of standardized and end-of-high-school tests mandated by the state—a decision that drew cheers from many parents and teachers attending the board meeting.

As an act of public defiance, however, this decision didn't last long. The legal and financial ramifications of the district's stance proved too perilous. Concerns quickly surfaced that missing test scores would leave graduates without the documentation necessary for a high school diploma or college acceptance. Within a few days, the school board reversed course, agreeing to resume mandatory testing but curb other assessments used by the district to monitor student progress. ([full article](#))

MABE Associate Membership

Once a school board member, always an advocate for public education ...

Do you know a former school board member who remains a passionate advocate for your students? Let them know that becoming a MABE associate member is an ideal way to stay involved and informed.

Perhaps your board is searching for a way to honor the service of a 'retiring' school board member? Give the gift of keeping in touch with former colleagues and staying informed about education issues by purchasing a Lifetime Associate Membership.

For more information, visit the [Associate Members](#) page of the website, or email Sandi Barry, sbarry@mabe.org.

Scenes from MABE

Below are a few photos from MABE events. To view all photos, please visit MABE's [Flickr](#) page or click on the event title.

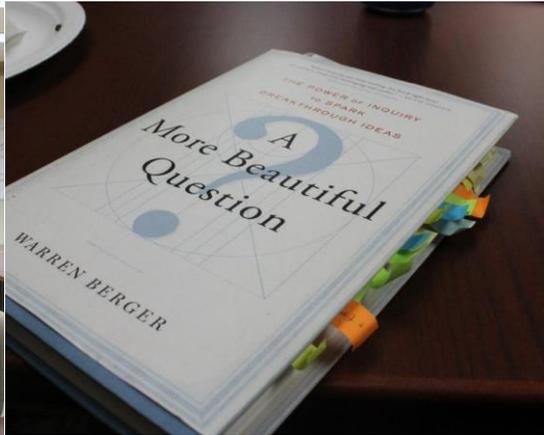
[New Board Member Orientation](#)



[2015 Boardsmanship Academy Courses](#)



[Leadership II Book Club](#)



[Annual Legislative Luncheon](#)



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